

FACT SHEET AB 2800 (Chan)

Sponsor: The California Children and Families Commission (State Proposition 10 Commission) is sponsoring AB 2800 to provide the Commission with the explicit authority to carry out its goal to ensure that children are ready to enter school.

Background: Proposition 10, the California Children and Families Act, was a California ballot initiative passed by voters in 1998 that created a State Commission and authorized the establishment of county commissions. The State Commission receives 20 percent of the tobacco tax revenue collected as a result of Prop 10 and is required to expend those funds for specified activities. County commissions receive 80 percent of the revenue based on the number of births in the county.

The Act requires that the State Commission's 20 percent be allocated to separate trust fund accounts for expenditure:

- 6% for mass media communications
- 5% for education programs
- 3% for child care programs
- 3% for research and development for best practices and standards related to early childhood development
- 1% for State Commission administration
- 2% is deposited in an "unallocated" account and can be used for any purposes of the Act.

Purpose of AB 2800: This bill will make explicit the State Commission's authority to expend funds from its accounts to include "School Readiness" and will revise the State Commission's powers and duties to explicitly provide for the allocation of State Commission funds to county commissions. These two primary areas of amendments are explained below:

- 1) The first set of amendments relate to explicitly authorizing the State Commission to expend its funds "to ensure that children are ready to enter school." Since the enactment of Prop 10, the State Commission has made "school readiness" its overarching goal and has developed and is in the process of implementing a \$200 million School Readiness Initiative, which is matched by county commission funds. Amendments are needed to update the purposes for which the State Commission funds can be expended, and to identify school readiness activities specifically within the scope of the above accounts.

These amendments are intended to explicitly recognize the Commission's goal of every child being ready for school, which was contemplated when the Act was drafted. This set of amendments clearly recognizes the link between School Readiness and early childhood development.

- 2) The second amendment would explicitly authorize the State Commission to allocate funds to county commissions as necessary to carry out the provisions and purposes of the Act. The Act does not provide the explicit authority for the State Commission to allocate funds to county commissions, yet for Prop 10 to be most successful, much of the State Commission's work is done in partnership with the county commissions. "Incentive" programs have been tremendously successful in putting in place statewide programs that the State Commission would otherwise not be financially able to support on its own. The State Commission is charged with "entering into such contracts as necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions and purposes of this Act" (Section 130125(i), Health and Safety Code). The State Commission believes it has the implied authority, but within its powers and duties, the State Commission is seeking the explicit authority to allocate funds from its 20 percent to county commissions.

As with any proposed action of the Commission, funding proposals are taken up in a public setting, with open discussion, and public comment. Meeting agendas are posted 10 days in advance, and are held in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act.

Additional Information:

Proposition 10, the California Children and Families Act (as passed by voters), can be found on the California Children and Families Commission's website at www.cafc.ca.gov. (Note that revisions made to the Act since 1998 are not reflected in that document, but can be found on www.leginfo.ca.gov commencing with Section 130100 of the Health and Safety Code.)

Information about the California Children and Families Commission's School Readiness Initiative can be also be found on the Commission's website.

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